

Black History Character Bios

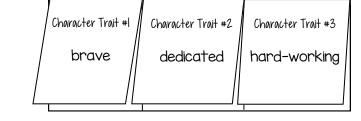
Free Character Trait Bio Lesson and Printables

by Laura Candler

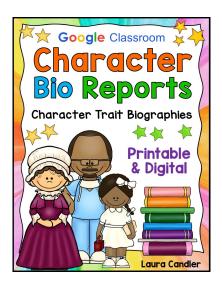
Black History Month is celebrated in February, and students are often tasked with researching a famous African American and writing a report to share what they learned. Unfortunately, many students don't know how to research, organize, and write a report. If not guided through the assignment, many students will simply Google some facts and copy and paste them into a report, perhaps rewording a bit here and there.

The Character Trait Bio activity is a little different from the normal writing assignment because students are asked to organize their essays around character traits.

First, students research a famous person, and then they write a list of character traits to describe that individual. Next they select three important character traits for the basis of their report. Students should create a graphic organizer such as a 3-column chart or the "flapper" shown above (see page 4 for



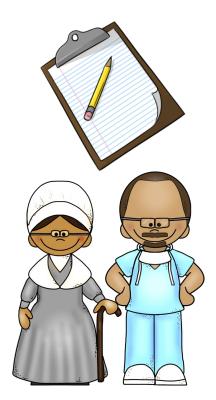
template). In each column or under each flap, students list supporting details for that character trait. Finally, they write an expository essay with an introduction, three paragraphs in the body, and a conclusion. In the body of the paper, they give supporting details from the life and accomplishments of the person who is the focus of their report. Because the report is written as a character analysis, students are not able to copy and paste from their sources. They must analyze the information and organize it in a meaningful way. Plagiarism problem solved!



Character Bio Reports (Printable and Digital)

This freebie is a printable sample from my **Character Bio Reports** pack. The complete product includes both printable and Google Classroom versions of seven different student assignment pages. The product also includes a detailed writing lesson, graphic organizers, and a grading rubric.

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Black History Bio Report

During the month of February, we honor African Americans for their accomplishments and contributions. What character traits are demonstrated by these individuals who have had such a positive impact on others? To find out, you'll be researching an African American and writing a short report in the form of a character analysis. You'll choose one African American, past or present, whom you admire. Next, you'll research facts and details about his or her life experiences and accomplishments. You'll use this information to write a short report organized around his or her character traits. Following the steps below will ensure a dynamite report!

Step 1: Select an African American

Brainstorm a list of African Americans you admire. They may be living now or have lived long ago. You may have to do a little research before you can make your selection. Then choose one person as the focus of your paper.

Step 2: Research and Record Facts

Research this person using a variety of resources. Begin by recording background facts and information about your person. Continue your research until you have listed at least 8 to 10 of the person's accomplishments or important life experiences.

Step 3: Select Character Traits

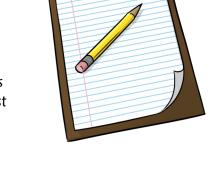
Think about the person's accomplishments and important life experiences. What traits describe this person? Select <u>three</u> traits that are supported by your research.

Step 4: Organize Ideas

Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits on a 3-part graphic organizer, and under each trait record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report

Write an essay using the information from your research. Start with an introduction followed by at least three paragraphs, one paragraph per character trait. Conclude with a brief paragraph that offers a personal connection or a reflection on that person's accomplishments and/or impact on others' lives. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.



My Name	Famous Person:	Character Trait #3	
ame	Person:	Character Trait #2	
		Character Trait #1	

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